

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented): A method for sterile filling a pre-sterilized container having a filling port with a bulk sterile fluid comprising the steps of:
establishing a controlled sterilizing field;
introducing a filling port of a pre-sterilized container into the sterilizing field;
transferring an aliquot of a bulk sterile fluid from a supply container to the pre-sterilized container through the filling port while in the sterilizing field; and
removing the filling port of the pre-sterilized container from the sterilizing field.
19. (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of sealing the filling port of the pre-sterilized container after transferring an aliquot of the bulk sterile fluid.
20. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of transferring comprises the steps of:
exposing a dispensing end attached to a supply of the bulk sterile fluid into the sterilizing field;
breaching the sealed filling port with the dispensing end;
delivering the bulk sterile fluid to the pre-sterilized container; and
sealing the breached filling port.
21. (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the steps of introducing, transferring, and removing are automated.

22. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating an electron beam field with a voltage of less than 300 KeV to produce a sterilizing field.
23. (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the electron beam field is established within the range of from about 30 to about 300 KeV.
24. (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the electron beam field is established within the range of from about 30 to about 100 KeV.
25. (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the electron beam field is established at about 60 KeV.
26. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating a plasma atmosphere to produce a sterilizing field.
27. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of using a pulsed light with an ultraviolet component to produce a sterilizing field.
28. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises the step of creating a chemical vapor atmosphere to produce a sterilizing field.
29. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of preventing the bulk sterile fluid from being affected by the sterilizing field.
30. (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of repeating steps (b) through (d) with another pre-sterilized container having a filling port.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of maintaining the sterilizing field between consecutive pre-sterilized containers.
32. (original): The method of claim 20, further comprising the step or repeating the steps of introducing the filling port, transferring an aliquot, and removing the filling port, using another pre-sterilized container having a filling port.
33. (original): The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of maintaining the sterility of the dispensing end between consecutive pre-sterilized containers.

Claims 34-65 (canceled).